

Message Text

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TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA): GENERAL DEBATE

1. GENERAL DEBATE OPENED ON A POSITIVE NOTE WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT THAT DESPITE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS, SITUATION FOR CHILDREN IMPROVED DURING PAST YEAR, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF 1) RELATIVELY GOOD HARVESTS AND FOOD SUPPLIES; 2) GROWING RECOGNITION BY POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS THAT CONCERN FOR CHILDREN IS INDISPENSIBLE COMPONENT OF DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. HE NOTED WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF BASIC SERVICES AND BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONCEPTS AND APPEALED TO GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT PRIORITY ATTENTION TO CHILDREN IN THE FORMULATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR DD III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR 1) CONTINUED ACCEPTANCE OF UNICEF AUTONOMY IN UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE 2) ACHIEVEMENT OF \$200 MILLION REVENUE TARGET BY 1979, 3) APPROVAL OF \$3 MILLION ACTIVITIES IN LDC'S.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL DELEGATES SUPPORTIVE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND PRAISED USEFULNESS AND IMPACT OF SPECIAL MEETING ON CHILDREN OF ASIA. CHIEF WESTERN SUPPORTERS (CANADA, SWEDEN, US) WITH SOME LDC SUPPORT AS WELL NOTED SOME FORM OF BASIC REVIEW OF FUTURE UNICEF PROGRAM AND PROGRAMMING PROCESS AS RELATED TO EXPECTED REVENUES IS

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NEEDED AND SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY POINTS:

PHILIPPINES: REPEATED PLEA FOR PROCLAMATION OF DECADE FOR CHILDREN OF ASIA TO BE LINKED WITH IYC, AS PROPOSED IN PRESIDENT MARCOS' KEYNOTE ADDRESS. ASKED BOARD ENDORSEMENT AND SUGGESTED DECADE BE PATTERNED AFTER DECADE FOR WOMEN. THIS SUBSEQUENTLY EXPANDED TO GLOBAL SCOPE AS

REPORTED SEPTEL.

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES: USSR AND POLAND STRESSED THEIR COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND WORKING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES AND URGED GREATER USE OF EXPERTS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. CUBA, SUPPORTED BY USSR, OBJECTED TO BEING TRANSFERRED INTO UNICEF'S CATEGORY III (COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER INCOME LEVELS), AND INVITED UNICEF TO PARTICIPATE IN ECLA-SPONSORED LA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN HAVANA IN JUNE 1977.

SWEDEN: EMBRACED NIEO, ILO'S BASIC NEEDS, REQUIREMENT FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND CALLED ON UNICEF TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BASIC SERVICES AND BASIC NEEDS STRATEGIES. URGED LESS EMPHASIS ON TARGETING AND MORE ON LONGER-RANGE (E.G. 3 YEARS) PLANNING BASED ON PROGRAM NEEDS, EXPECTED REVENUES, AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY. STRESSED THAT NODIC COUNTRIES INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF NINE-FOLD FOR 1967-76 PERIOD, WHILE GENERAL AVERAGE ONLY THREE-FOLD INCREASE FOR SAME PERIOD. URGED A) MULTI-DONOR PROGRAM CONSULTATIONS; B) MULTI-YEAR FUNDING COMMITMENTS; C) REPORT ON AND FURTHER INCREASE IN ALLOTMENTS TO LEAST DEVELOPED; D) REPORT ON GAP BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION.

CANADA: MIDLY CRITICAL OF INADEQUACY OF REPORT ON EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILD; URGED MORE AGREEMENTS WITH NATIONAL COMMITTEES, ESPECIALLY IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES; SUPPORTED SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR LONGER-RANGE VIEW AND PROPOSED FORMATION OF BOARD WORKING GROUP.

FRG: URGED EXTENSION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION STUDY TO IDENTIFY OPTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROACHES FOR PRIMARY AGE CHILDREN; SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP TO FIND WAYS OF INCREASING REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

JAPAN: URGED UNICEF TO TAKE LEAD WITHIN UN SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY BETTER RATIO BETWEEN PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES; CRITICAL OF DECLINE IN PROGRAM COMMITMENTS INDIA; ANNOUNCED \$100,000 IYC CONTRIBUTION (?) AND URGED OTHER TO FOLLOW SUIT; CONCERNED OVER DECLINE IN LDC SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS.

HOLLAND; QUESTIONED WISDOM OF \$200 MILLION TARGET IN VIEW EVIDENT SLOW-DOWN IN PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION; URGED GREATER PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT OF NGO'S AND MORE EMPHASIS IN NATIONAL AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF REALIZATION OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS; ALSO CALLED FOR NOMINATION OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IYC AT THIS BOARD MEETING.

FRANCE; SOME CONCERN THAT EMPHASIS ON "INNOVATIVE" PROGRAMS MIGHT HURT "TRADITIONAL" PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE FOUNDATION OF UNICEF'S GOOD REPUTATION.

VENEZUELA; PROMISED INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS (NO AMOUNTS WERE MENTIONED) AND ALSO NOTED AID GIVEN THROUGH OPEC. LDC'S STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASED RESOURCES; PAKISTAN, INDONESIA MENTIONED USAID ASSISTANCE; BENIN, CAMEROON, MOROCCO URGED GREATER LDC REPRESENTATION IN UNICEF STAFF AND ALSO SUGGESTED AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY.
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